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9/5/79

TBF Doc P

Sec 14 2(b)

AX 063

MEMORANDUM

September 5, 1979

TO : FILES

FROM : POL - Townsend B. Friedman *BF*

SUBJECT: The Numbers Game--How Many Detainees?

Col. San Roman of the Interior Ministry told Bill Hallman and myself today that there are now 1453 people under PEN. In addition, there are approximately 1100 persons who have completed the judicial process and are now serving their prison terms. San Roman estimated that there are also 300-400 people who are undergoing civil or military judicial process but who are not under PEN. In sum by San Roman's estimates--and he is probably reporting accurately and has access to the information, there are now about 2,900-3,000 people detained for other than criminal charges. San Roman said in 1976 this same figure was about 8,500.

E about 2,500 prisoners in the four main detention centers (Villa Devoto, Caseros, La Plata, Rawson) and if we add in an estimate of those prisoners held in other prisons. *B1*

C we come out with a total figure quite close to that provided by San Roman. For comparative purposes, 4,500 prisoners in the four main detention centers.

C also stated that a small number of the prisoners are under the DAM category (at the disposition of the military authorities). San Roman denied that this category still exists; prisoners move in and out of it.

C the conditions in the prisons, stating that they are improved in all respects over a year ago. Prisoners now have regular visits; they get more exercise; food is better. He attributed much of this improvement to the regulations issued by the President in April, stating that these regulations give standards against which the authorities' performance is measured by both the prisoners.

C When treatment falls below the level of the regulations complaints can and are made and the conditions usually corrected. *B1*

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

() Release ☒ Excise () DenyExemption(s): *B1*Declassify: ☒ In Part () In Full☒ Classify as *C* () Extend as () Downgrade toDate *5-10-01* Declassify onReason *25X 7*81 F 184
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(The Consulate tells me that the foregoing is essentially correct. However, exercise is often limited and this has affected the prisoners' health, particularly in Caseros Prison which has no outdoor recreation facilities.)

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9/5/79

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